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OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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May 15, 1950

MEAT PRODUCTION IN SPECIFIED COUNTRIES IN 1949

Meat production in the principal livestock countries of the world in 1949, exclusive of the Far East, is estimated at about 68.3 billion pounds in a preliminary report by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. This is a gain of about 3.5 billion pounds or 5 percent above the 1948 production. It also places the 1949 output slightly above the 1934-38 average. The 1949 meat production is one of the largest, if not the largest, on record.

The increase in meat production on all continents, except in the Middle East and South America, is attributed to an improved grazing and feed grain situation, as well as to the larger number of livestock on farms. The much improved feed situation in 1948 and 1949, together with the relatively high prices for meat, encouraged livestock producers to market animals even while building up herds. Increases on the various continents ranged from 1 to 14 percent, with the largest gains being made in those countries where production was the lowest in relation to the prewar output. When compared with prewar, meat production on all continents, except Europe and the Soviet Union, is 6 to 45 percent above the 1934-38 level.

MEAT 1/: Summary of world production, 1949, with comparisons.

Continent or area	Average :		Preliminary:	Increase (+) or decrease (-)	
	1934-	1948		1949	1949
	1938	1948		1949	1948
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Percent	Percent
North America 2/	18,600	25,100	25,300	+ 36	+ 1
Europe	28,400	318,700	3/ 21,200	- 21	+ 13
Soviet Union	4/ 7,292	5/	5/	--	--
Middle East 6/	1,400	5/	5/	--	--
South America	8,300	9,800	9,800	+ 18	--
Union of So. Africa	671	952	971	+ 45	+ 2
Oceania	3,200	3,300	3,400	+ 6	+ 4
Total 7/	67,900	64,700	68,300	+ 1	+ 5

1/ Carcass meat-excludes offal, lard, rabbit and poultry meat. 2/ Includes United States, Canada, Mexico and Cuba. 3/ Not strictly comparable with prewar, due to territorial changes. 4/ Prewar territory. 5/ Estimates included in the total. 6/ Includes Egypt, Turkey, Iraq and Iran. 7/ Total includes 41 countries, which in 1938 produced 66.3 billion pounds of meat out of an estimated total 70 billion pounds for 67 countries, excluding China.

Based on a favorable feed position in many parts of the world, the larger number of livestock on farms and fairly high prices for meat, the outlook for an increase in 1950 meat production appears favorable. If weather conditions become unfavorable, the increase is likely to be large because of forced marketings, but should weather conditions be favorable, more normal marketings and a smaller increase would result. The largest increase again can be expected to occur in Europe and the Soviet Union. It is also likely that both the 1949 and prewar production levels will be exceeded in 1950.

Notwithstanding relatively heavy postwar slaughtering of cattle in the United States and some increase in breeding stock during the past year, the 1949 output of meat was slightly larger than that of 1948 and exceeded the 1935-39 average by 35 percent. Plentiful feed supplies and a favorable relationship between feed and livestock prices have encouraged producers to increase hog production and to feed cattle to heavier weights. In Canada, meat production dropped 4 per cent below a year earlier, but still continues 37 percent above the 1935-39 average. Large exports of live cattle to the United States and competition from other farm enterprises have reduced herds and curtailed livestock production. Cuban and Mexican production declined in 1949, but both countries are considerably above their prewar levels.

Greater availability of feed supplies in Europe during 1948 and 1949 enabled farmers to increase their livestock numbers. Consequently, European meat production in 1949 increased about 13 percent over a year earlier. Current estimates, however, are only about 80 percent of prewar. France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Poland and Italy are the largest producers of meat in Europe, but all of these countries except France and Italy are considerably below the 1934-38 average. In Denmark, the Netherlands and Ireland, the traditional meat exporters of Western Europe, the 1949 production was increased by 36, 29 and 3 percent, respectively, but all three countries are considerably below prewar.

Only limited statistics and information are available in regard to Eastern Europe. However, livestock numbers generally are believed to have increased and meat production has very likely been augmented. In relation to prewar, the present meat output is believed to be considerably smaller.

Larger quantity of feedgrain supplies and better pasture conditions in the Soviet Union have enabled producers to increase livestock numbers and to continue the upward trend in meat production. The year's output is believed to be considerably larger than that of 1948, but very much below the production of the prewar period.

Meat production in the Middle East is believed to have remained relatively constant with no significant change. In the Union of South Africa, meat production in 1949 increased slightly, and continues to be about 45 percent above the 1934-38 level.

Drought conditions in the latter part of 1949, particularly in Argentina and Uruguay, have brought about some liquidation of cattle and

as a result South American meat production in 1949 is almost at the high level of 1947. Recent rains are believed to be sufficient for the growth of grass which may enable cattle numbers to be maintained without further losses. The number of cattle lost before the arrival of rains can be expected to reflect some decrease in exports in the next year or two. Production in Chile and Paraguay fell off, while Brazilian and Colombian output evidenced minor gains during the year. No significant changes are anticipated in 1950 except for continuance of a relatively large production in Uruguay.

Generally improved grazing conditions during the past two years reflect the upward trend in Australian meat production and the continuance of a high level of production in New Zealand. Australian and New Zealand meat production was 106 and 99 percent, respectively, of the previous year's output and both countries are above their prewar average.

Meat production in the United States in 1949 was slightly larger than the 1943 output. The 1949 production was 35 percent above the 1935-39 average and about 13 percent below the record production of 1944. Apparently, the more abundant and lower priced feed, together with relatively high prices of meat, enabled livestock producers to maintain a fairly high level of production as well as to increase their cattle and hog numbers.

In 1949, there were 4 million more hogs slaughtered than a year earlier, which resulted in somewhat less than a 2 percent gain in pork output. Hogs were marketed at lower average weights than the preceding year, resulting in the small increase in production in relation to the number slaughtered. On the other hand, the number of cattle slaughtered dropped 400,000 head from the preceding year, but since the cattle were fed to heavier weights, beef production increased 4 percent, while mutton and lamb output was the lowest since the mid 20's.

Meat production in Canada continued to decline and dropped from 2,027,000,000 pounds in 1948 to 1,945,000,000 pounds in 1949. Beef and veal output declined about 4 percent and pork fell off about 3 percent from a year earlier. The total production, however, is still 37 percent larger than the 1935-39 average.

High prices for meat and cattle in United States during 1949 continued to provide an attractive market outlet for Canadian meat and cattle. In 1949, there were 433,500 head of cattle imported to the United States from Canada. This is about 28,000 head less than the number imported in 1948 when the larger number of feeder and slaughter cattle entered U. S. after the removal of the Canadian embargo in August 1948. A large number of the live cattle imported from Canada in 1949 came in for immediate slaughter and others were sold to feeders and breeders. The relatively large number of live cattle exported by Canada was a considerable factor in reducing meat production in that country.

The trend of Mexican meat production in 1949 apparently was downward, but is still considerably above the 1934-38 average. There were several factors which contributed to the decline in the 1949 output. Among the

more important ones were the large number of cattle slaughtered for production of serum used in the foot-and-mouth disease eradication program, the tapering off of the meat canning program and the losses from drought, particularly from the poor condition of many cattle slaughtered.

Meat production in the United Kingdom in 1949 increased about 18 percent to continue the upward trend, but output is still almost 30 percent smaller than the average for the 1936-38 period. Pork output made up about two-thirds of the 1949 increase, while beef and veal and mutton and lamb represented about 22 and 12 percent, respectively.

Beef and veal production made up nearly 60 percent of the meat produced in the United Kingdom in 1949, a somewhat higher proportion than prior to the war. The 1949 output, however, is now 85 percent of prewar, even though cattle numbers are 16 percent above. During the war and post-war periods, the emphasis was on milk rather than beef production. As a result, beef production lags because there is a larger proportion of cattle in dairy herds.

Pork output represents about 26 percent of the meat produced in the United Kingdom, considerably less proportionally than in prewar. Production in 1949 was only 52 percent of the 1936-38 average. Although hog numbers are two-thirds of the prewar level, present numbers were made up very largely of young animals and will not be reflected in production before 1950. Mutton and lamb continue to be about 70 percent of the 1936-38 level.

Ireland (Eire), one of the principal exporters of live cattle and meat in Europe, increased its meat production by about 3 percent in 1949, about 7 percent below the average output for the 1934-38 period. Although livestock numbers increased, only pork production reflected an increase. Pork, however, made up 48 percent of the 1949 production, beef and veal over 40 percent, larger proportionately than prewar, and mutton and lamb about 10 percent. E.C.A. financial assistance in the purchase of feed supplies has materially helped the livestock industry and augmented the meat output.

Danish meat production in 1949 increased 36 percent over a year earlier, but is still about 20 percent below the average output for the 1935-39 period. Weather was ideal for crops and pastures during a large part of the year. Livestock numbers, particularly hogs, increased very rapidly. E.C.A. assistance in imports of feedstuffs has materially contributed to the substantial recovery of livestock numbers. This very favorable situation with regard to the livestock industry was reflected in the substantial increase that took place in meat output in 1949. Beef and veal output is only about 74 percent of the prewar level, pork production about 80 percent and mutton and lamb about 50 percent.

In France, meat production in 1949 is estimated to be somewhat larger than a year earlier. This increase can be attributed to some liquidation of livestock in anticipation of an unfavorable feed situation, due to the drought in the summer of 1949. However, the degree of liquidation was not nearly as drastic as expected since the feed situation improved in the fall.

The October cattle numbers were smaller than those of the preceding fall, which indicates that some liquidation occurred. Beef and veal production increased more than pork and also made up more than one-half of the total output.

Meat production in Belgium increased around 20 percent in 1949 and is now somewhere around 8 percent below the 1934-38 average. Pork and beef and veal output are 13 and 11 percent, respectively, below prewar levels. Declining prices of meat, larger number of hogs and a relatively constant number of cattle were the principal factors contributing to the larger 1949 production.

Netherlands meat production in 1949 was nearly 30 percent larger than in 1948 but 40 percent below the prewar level. More cattle and hogs were slaughtered and fed to heavier weights in 1949 than 1948.

Although meat production in Germany increased substantially in 1949, the total output continues to be only 60 percent of the prewar level. Beef and veal and pork were 65 and 52 percent, respectively, of their 1935-38 average levels. The change in government policy from production of cereals for direct consumption to greater livestock production was the principal impetus to the larger 1949 meat production. However, the hog fattening program and heavy cattle slaughter, together with greater availability of feed, enabled farmers to feed to heavier weights, resulting in larger output.

Although meat production in Italy increased considerably over that of 1948, the currently estimated output is somewhat below the 1934-38 average. Pork is believed to represent almost half of the meat produced, which is now either at prewar level or possibly above. Mutton and lamb is also believed to be about or at the 1934-38 level. Beef and veal appears to be the only type of meat that continues to be produced in smaller quantities than prewar. Slaughter weights seems to have been maintained despite a relatively poor forage crop in 1949. Some of this increase in production can be attributed to the decline in prices. Livestock numbers (cattle, hogs and sheep) now exceed prewar levels.

In Greece, meat output is approaching prewar. Beef and veal exceeds the 1936-38 level. While pork is almost at prewar, mutton and lamb is only about two-thirds of the 1936-38 average. Switzerland increased its meat production around 20 percent in 1949, but is still 40 percent below the 1934-38 output. A more favorable feed situation in 1949 enabled farmers to expand meat production and even to rebuild herds.

Meat production in the Eastern European countries can not be properly evaluated because statistical data and other information are lacking. However, it is believed that their 1949 output increased considerably over 1948, but current estimates are likely to be considerably below their respective prewar levels. Favorable growing conditions are reported to have contributed to an increase in livestock numbers. Such increase is likely to be reflected in a larger meat output.

Favorable pasture conditions and relatively good feed grain crops in the Soviet Union during 1949 have brought about an increase in livestock numbers. As a result, meat production in 1949 is believed to be considerably larger than that of 1948, but substantially below the 1938 level.

The 1949 meat production in Argentina dropped off slightly in comparison with the 1948 output. Large marketings of unfinished cattle due to the drought in November and December brought the 1949 meat production to a relatively high level. Slaughterings in 1949 were comparable to 1948, but the meat yield was less. Penalties were imposed on cattle weighing in excess of 530 kilos (about 1168 pounds) and contributed somewhat to marketing cattle at lighter weights. Beef and veal production in 1949 was slightly smaller than in 1948. At the same time, the pork output was larger than the preceding year, while mutton and lamb in 1949 declined more than beef and veal.

Brazilian meat production continued at about the same level as in 1948 and about 25 percent above the 1934-38 average. All three categories of meat showed minor gains. Favorable feed conditions also enabled cattle producers to slightly increase their numbers.

In 1949, meat production in Uruguay increased by 35 percent over the preceding year. Current estimates are about 4 percent above the prewar output. Colombian meat production is slightly above 1948 and over 40 percent larger than prewar. Chilean production, on the other hand, fell off during the year but continues to be almost 10 percent above the 1934-38 level.

Australia increased its meat production in 1949 by approximately 6 percent over that of 1948 according to the estimates. These estimates also exceed the 1936-38 output by around 3 percent. Mutton and lamb, however, showed the largest gain of around 20 percent and beef and veal almost 2 percent, while pork declined by nearly 5 percent. A larger number of sheep and cattle, coupled with attractive prices for meat and wool and better than average pasture conditions in 1949, were the principal factors in increasing meat production over that of the preceding year. There are other factors, such as the long term bulk purchasing agreement with the United Kingdom, British assistance in development of transportation facilities, development of the livestock industry in the Northern territory, and increasing population, which can be expected to increase meat production over a long period.

Although meat production in New Zealand continues to exceed prewar by 13 percent, the 1949 output dropped slightly below the 1948 level. Production of beef and veal declined by about 9 percent from a year earlier to more than off-set the accumulated increase in pork and mutton and lamb. Some depletion of herds and flocks in the years of feed scarcity a few years ago is believed to have led to some holding back of livestock.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report, the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman, Elmer A. Reese, and Lois B. Bacon.

MEAT 1/: Preliminary estimate of production of beef and veal, pork, mutton and lamb, and total meats in specified countries in 1949, with comparisons

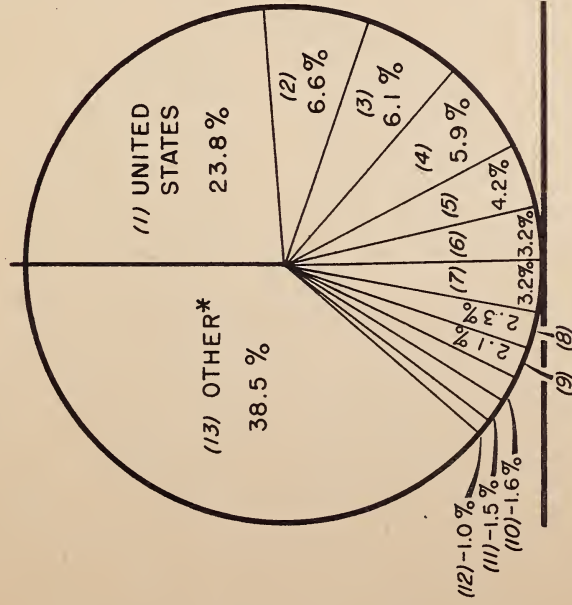
Country	Beef and Veal				Pork (excluding lard)				Mutton and Lamb				Total 2/	
	Average 1934-38	1948	1949	Average 1934-38	1948	1949	Average 1934-38	1948	1949	Average 1934-38	1948	1949	Average 1934-38	1949
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
NORTH AMERICA														
Canada 3/.....	735:	1,034:	991:	621:	941:	910:	61:	48:	44:	1,417:	2,023:	1,945		
Mexico.....	492:	794:	747:	167:	242:	225:	14:	24:	20:	698:	1,085:	1,020		
United States 3/.....	7,974:	10,602:	10,862:	7,337:	10,241:	10,412:	871:	753:	608:	16,182:	21,596:	21,879		
Cuba 4/.....	269:	370:	370:	36:	45:	37:	2:	2:	2:	309:	417:	409		
EUROPE														
Austria 5/.....	231:	165:	130:	399:	215:	250:6/	185:6/	12:6/	12:	617:	400:	401		
Belgium.....	304:	228:	270:	367:	225:	300:	7:	5:	5:	693:	530:	636		
Bulgaria 1/.....	105:	174:	-	174:	-	-	88:	-	-	337:	-	-		
Czechoslovakia 8/.....	411:	261:	230:	480:	405:	485:	6:	5:	5:	1,105:	685:	735		
Denmark 3/9/.....	361:	240:	266:	725:	379:	586:	8:	6:	6:	890:	694:	684		
Eire.....	103:	159:	128:	196:	105:	151:	37:	38:	32:	336:	302:	311		
Finland 3/.....	115:	81:	80:	122:	117:	117:	12:	12:	12:	256:	223:	245		
France.....	2,200:	1,885:	2,100:	1,494:	1,543:	1,625:6/	222:6/	132:6/	135:	4,015:	3,693:	3,990		
Germany-Western 1/.....	1,550:	800:	1,000:	2,500:	930:	1,300:	45:	35:	50:	4,140:	1,825:	2,425		
Greece 10/.....	32:	27:	34:	40:	37:	39:6/	136:6/	103:6/	90:	208:	167:	163		
Hungary 10/.....	121:	-	-	386:	-	-	22:	-	-	538:	-	-		
Italy.....	732:11/	550:11/	605:	675:11/	660:11/	700:9/	108:9/	110:9/	115:	1,542:11/	1,350:11/	1,460		
Netherlands.....	308:	176:	202:	548:	209:	300:	7:	7:	11:	894:	444:	533		
Norway.....	94:	67:	81:11/	85:	44:	-	71:11/	32:	25:	26:11/	141:	184		
Poland 12/.....	175:	-	-	1,655:	-	-	30:	-	-	2,450:	-	-		
Rumania.....	247:	-	-	11/	222:	-	6:13/	188:	-	657:	-	-		
Sweden 3/.....	292:	236:	251:	327:	331:	384:9/	85:9/	6:6/	4:	649:	595:	668		
Switzerland.....	217:	143:	181:	190:	151:	176:	4:	5:	4:	309:	371	371		
United Kingdom 10/.....	1,393:	1,117:	1,185:	1,012:	327:	530:	447:	277:	315:	2,852:	1,721:	2,030		
Yugoslavia.....	243:	-	-	476:	-	-	147:	-	-	888:	-	-		
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia) 12/13/.....														
2,855:	-	-	-	3,459:	-	-	978:	-	-	7,292:	-	-		
SOUTH AMERICA														
Argentina.....	3,638:	4,290:	4,270:14/	243:14/	300:14/	340:	378:	535:	485:	4,459:	5,125:	5,095		
Brazil 14/.....	1,821:	2,192:	2,200:	369:	497:	510:	15:	39:	40:	2,214:	2,778:	2,778		
Chile.....	235:	281:	241:	39:	55:	56:	72:	93:	82:	349:	432:	382		
Paraguay.....	167:	270:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	270:	270:	200		
Uruguay 14/.....	505:	401:	546:	14:	29:	21:	62:	20:	39:	581:	450:	606		
AFRICA														
Union of South Africa.....	421:	661:	682:	64:	80:	104:6/	186:6/	211:6/	175:	671:	952:	971		
OCEANIA														
Australia 10/.....	1,275:	1,290:	1,310:11/	211:	204:	195:11/	716:	643:	770:11/	2,202:	2,137:	2,275		
New Zealand 15/.....	365:	411:	375:	106:	83:	85:	553:	677:	695:	1,024:	1,171:	1,155		

1/ Carcass meat basis-excludes edible offal and lard. 2/ Includes other meat, i.e. goat and horse meat. Excludes offal, rabbit and poultry meat. 3/ Averages for years 1935-39. 4/ Averages for years 1935-40. 5/ Averages for years 1933-37. 6/ Includes goat meat. 7/ Averages for years 1935-38. 8/ Year 1936 for prewar. 9/ Includes carcass meat equivalent of live animal exports. 10/ Averages for years 1936-38. 11/ Year beginning July 1. 12/ Year 1938 for prewar. 13/ Prewar territory. 14/ Excludes farm production. 15/ Year beginning July 1 for prewar (1936-38); year ending September 30 for years 1948 and 1949.

MEAT PRODUCTION IN SPECIFIED COUNTRIES AVERAGE 1934-38 AND 1949

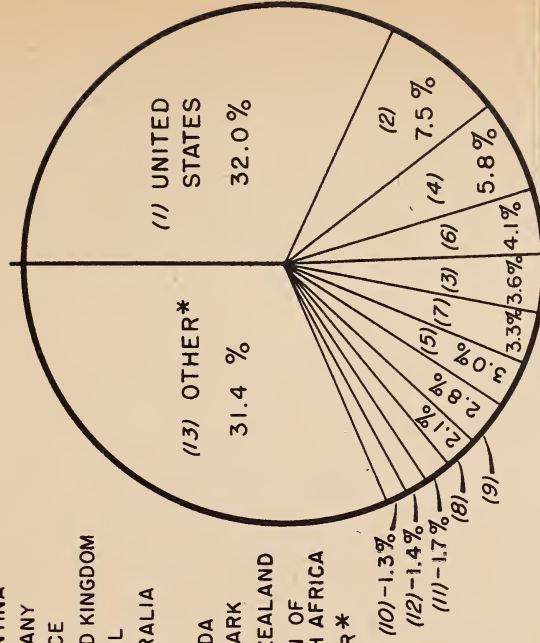
LEGEND

- (1) UNITED STATES
- (2) ARGENTINA
- (3) GERMANY
- (4) FRANCE
- (5) UNITED KINGDOM
- (6) BRAZIL
- (7) AUSTRALIA
- (8) ITALY
- (9) CANADA
- (10) DENMARK
- (11) NEW ZEALAND
- (12) UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
- (13) OTHER*



AVERAGE 1934-38

68.1 BILLION POUNDS



1949

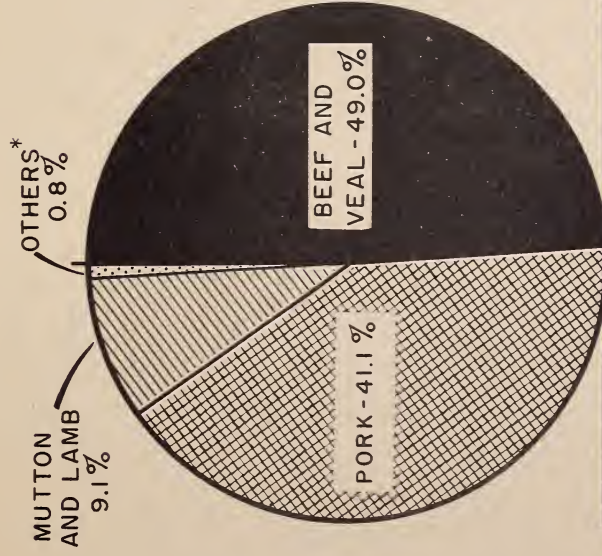
68.3 BILLION POUNDS

* RUSSIA, YUGOSLAVIA, POLAND, AND RUMANIA REPRESENT
49% OF OTHER PRODUCTION IN 1934-38 AND 43% IN 1949.

NOTE:- THE NUMBER IN (PARENTHESES) IN EACH SECTOR REFERS TO THE COUNTRY NAME IN THE LEGEND

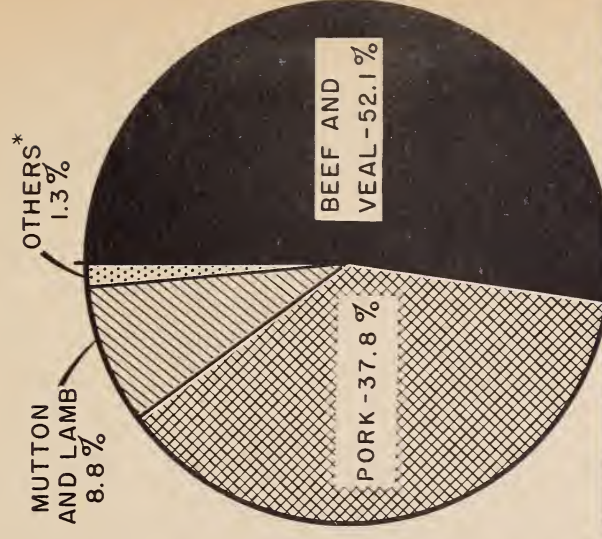
WORLD MEAT PRODUCTION BY TYPES

AVERAGE 1934-38 AND 1949



AVERAGE 1934-38

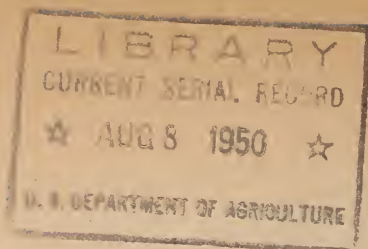
68.1 BILLION POUNDS



1949

68.3 BILLION POUNDS

* GOAT AND HORSE MEAT



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